the technical defects of aircraft.

Considering the spate of aircraft accidents that have taken place in the recent past, the Government of India have also constituted an Expert Committee on 30.12.2004 under the Chairmanship of Director General (Inspection & Safety) to identify the main causes of the these accidents and to formulate a comprehensive Action Plan to minimise the losses.

***Statement***

*Details of Aircraft Accidents*

| Financial year | No. of Accidents | No. of aircraft lost | Cause of accidents | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Human Error (Aircrew) | Human Error (Servicing) | Technical Defect | Bird Hit | Unresolved | Under Investigation |
| 2001-2002 | 22 | 22 | 13 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 2002-2003 | 23 | 23 | 8 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2003-2004 | 15 | 15 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2004-2005 upto 24.2.2005 | 14 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Total | 74 | 75 | 30 | 4 | 28 | 1 | 4 | 7 |

**Commissioning of Admiral Gorshkov**

192. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is certain now that the Russian built 45,000 tonne aircraft carrier 'Admiral Gorshkov' will be commissioned into the Indian Navy by end of 2007 and arrive in Mumbai in early 2008; and

(b) if so, the other details of the launch?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The repair and re-equipping of aircraft carrier 'Admiral Gorshkov' at Russia is

expected to be completed in August 2008. The ship will be commissioned thereafter.

(b) 'Admiral Gorshkov' is a 44,500 tonne steam powered ship, capable of a maximum speed of 29 knots with a range of 7000 Nautical Miles. The aircraft carrier is being re-equipped with a Ski Jump and arrestor Gear System to cater for the Take off and Landing of the aircraft with a view to enable it to operate MIG 29K aircraft. In addition to MIG 29K, the ship will operate Ka-28, Ka-31, Chetak and ALH helicopters.

**Shortage of officers in the army**

†193. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of thousands of officers in Army;

(b) if so, the number of posts lying vacant and since when the said shortage of officers existed and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the strength of young officers in commanding position in army is less in comparison to other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have constituted any study/Enquiry Commission for improving the said conditions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) At present there is a shortage of 11709 officers in the Indian Army. Shortfalls in the Army have existed, in varying degrees, since 1950.

(c) The strength of young officers in commanding positions in the Army is based on the organizational structure of each Army. Hence, it would not be appropriate to undertake such a comparison in isolation.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.